

THE LAST LAP

MR CHURCHILL has called on the nation for an immense effort of resolution and valour as the last lap of the struggle to defeat Germany draws near. That this final phase will need all the courage and zeal that we can command is clear and definite.

The enemy himself has sent out a call to his people to key themselves to the task of defence and resistance. The ring of the German defences has been strengthened to a toughness which the Allied soldiers are now testing at the cost of much life and treasure. To all men who love freedom and yet wish to end the slaughter of human life quickly the call has come to enter the last lap of the war with audacity and firmness.

It has taken five long years of fighting and endurance to bring us to our present position. On the threshold of ultimate victory we can now see something of the harvest that fortitude and heroism and patience have won. That harvest was won in days of defeat and disaster when little else but hope and faith were our equipment and when ultimate confidence in the future was our only bulwark.

We Rediscovered Our Soul

Something then happened to the British people which will be for ever memorable in our annals. A deep note of confidence in the final triumph of righteousness and honour was struck among us. We rediscovered our soul. We dared to venture our all because we could do no other, believing that to go down fighting for what was true and right was better than a security in which truth and right were destroyed. We chose then the path of hardness and discipline, knowing that it would be long and difficult.

We are now approaching the last lap of that path. This, too, will be difficult. The zeal and dedication which maintained our spirits in the dark years is still needed. We must not approach the final assault in a tired and listless spirit; we cannot afford to end the war in such a spirit. We must face the end with the same unconquerable resolution and alertness.

To tire now will also result in a lack of vigilance about the great issues of the post-war world. The understanding of a world demanding a new beginning will require responsive and sympathetic minds. Like the runner in the last lap of a great race we need to put forth our utmost energy to win, but to be controlled sufficiently in body and spirit to have power to continue in races yet to be contested.

There Will Be No Short Cuts

A tired world in the immediate post-war days will be a calamity indeed. It is out of tiredness that defeat comes—the soul of man seeking deliverance from all burdens at any price. This is the mood in which short cuts are favoured in order to achieve what appear to be easy and quick settlements. But there will be no short cuts in the last lap, and there will be no short cuts in the making of the new world. We have seen the folly of expecting great problems to be settled by easy means. Men and nations lose their souls unless they are prepared to pay the deep and costly price for their salvation. Only with patience and persistence can men and women, discussing together the complex problems that must arise everywhere, evolve the machinery of a new World Order.

IN the affairs of men the easiest way out is not always the true way out, and entry into the new world may be by many intricate gateways which do not all smile a friendly welcome. Bunyan's Pilgrim pursuing his patient way through quagmires and wildernesses knew that he had not only to attain the Celestial City, but also to get there honourably. He had much facile advice offered to him, and much superficial assistance on the way, but he had to sift the true from the false while he kept his eye on "yonder shining light" beyond which lay the Celestial City. He had to have the courage to reject that which was easily attainable, and to march boldly onward through the wild and dangerous land, winning character and resolution for himself as he marched.

A Big New Chapter

We have this duty of faithfulness to the coming generations who will be the real leaders of the post-war world. Many of them are standing with us in the last lap of victory, carefully watching our performances and weighing the possibility of an honourable new beginning for the world.

Already suspicious of a world which twice in a generation has involved itself in war, this new company wants to play its part in laying foundations and in building. Can we claim them as partners? Can we show by sincerity today that we have learned the lessons of yesterday? Can we show by readiness to listen that we have not finally made up our minds on everything, that we have left behind for ever much of our old life, and that we are facing a large new chapter in the history of all mankind?

THE last lap of victory is a time to contemplate not merely the glories of triumph, but what we are going to do with those triumphs. It is said that after the last war we threw away the fruits of our hard-won battles, and that we might have done many things differently.

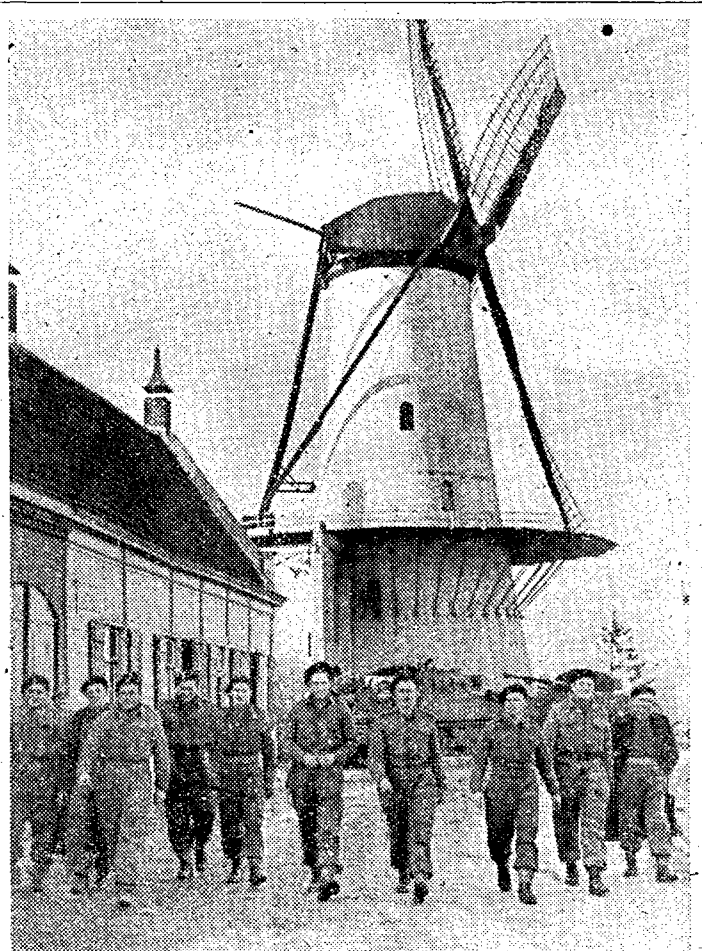
The First Dreams of a New World

No doubt we shall make mistakes again, but do not let us make the same mistakes in the same way. One hopeful fact is certain: we come this time to our hour of victory better prepared and more equipped to use the fruits of victory. We have been sobered and disciplined through the grey years to see clearly upon whom we may rely and what responses we may gain.

The peoples of all the United Nations know more of the immense issues at stake than at any time. There is an expectancy of achievement and solid, sober hope of it which cannot be dissolved by temporary failure and set-backs. There will be, doubtless, some dismal failings in the creation of a new day for all men, but we are better prepared to face these happenings and to meet them with high-hearted resolution.

As the United Nations prepare for the last lap of war, they prepare for the first lap of peace. In the character of those final glories will be also revealed the character of the first dreams of a new world. While we cheer and dream, while we shout and hope, let us be sure that, alert and resolute, we dedicate our whole selves to the high tasks which are unfolding in this momentous period of our human story.

CHILDREN'S
EVERY TUESDAY 3d
NEWSPAPER
FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE
No 1341



A Stroll Behind the Front

The enemy were only 400 yards from the spot where this photo was taken at Hooze Zwaluwe in Holland. Polish tank crews are seen striding along past a typical Dutch windmill. Less than two miles away are the two great bridges spanning the Holland-schdiep, the key to the cities of Rotterdam and Dordrecht.

LEARNING TO READ BY LAW

MEXICO intends that the whole of its population shall be able to read and write by the end of February 1946. At present half of them cannot.

The President, General Camacho, has decided that none of the country's other social problems can be satisfactorily solved while so many people are uneducated, and he has therefore passed an emergency law to the effect that every citizen between 19 and 60 years of age who can read and write Spanish is to teach someone else who cannot do so, and teach him within a year from next February. The law also provides that the pupils will be forthcoming by obliging everyone from 6 years to 40 to learn to read and write.

There are a number of Indians in Mexico who speak only dialects; they, too, are to be taught Spanish by special instructors who are being provided with bilingual charts.

President Camacho and his wife are to lead the campaign by each teaching one illiterate.

Mexico has had a Literacy

Committee since 1936, organised with the help of Dr Frank Laubach, whose quick-teaching methods and slogan of "Each one teach one" are now famous. This Committee has already had considerable success, and is taking part in the new Government crusade. It has invited Dr Laubach to visit Mexico again as soon as possible.

"Like Bread Cast on the Waters . . ."

THIRTY years ago a boy in a tiny village school in Cornwall gained a County Scholarship of £100. It was a brilliant achievement, and he was not slow in taking advantage of all its golden opportunities.

In after years, having done well and got on in the world, he often thought of that scholarship and what it really meant to him. Now he has sent the £100 back to Cornwall as a gift to the Sir Arthur Quiller Couch Memorial Fund, so that some lad may enjoy all the benefits of a scholarship just as he did!

ALL-OUT ON THE WESTERN FRONT

THE dreary month of November has witnessed one of those tremendous unified attacks which in every war test to the utmost limit the strength and endurance of the enemy. A battle has been opened on the Western Front which may well prove decisive.

Hitherto the attacks on the well-entrenched Germans had been scattered, although in most of them the vigour and tenacity of the Allied Armies had won and held valuable ground. It was a period during which General Eisenhower was building up his strength as a whole, and destroying the hostile forces to his rear in South-West Holland. One of the most valuable of these reconstructions was the bringing of the American Ninth Army from Brest to Holland, some 500 miles.

By the middle of November General Eisenhower had all his armies in readiness, and he struck with all of them along the 400-mile front stretching from the River Waal to the Swiss frontier south of Belfort.

While the First Canadian Army held the northward front along the River Maas to the sea, General Dempsey's Second British Army went forward on a wide front, entered German territory and, with the help of the Ninth

American Army on their right, captured Geilenkirchen, less than 40 miles from Cologne.

Meanwhile, the American First Army to the south pressed on from Aachen toward the River Roer, and to the south again General Patton's Third American Army fought its way into the famous stronghold of Metz.

Still farther to the south the American Seventh Army advanced through the Vosges mountains, and on the extreme right of the long line the First French Army under General de Tassigny entered Belfort and reached the River Rhine itself.

Nothing so momentous as this great advance in unison by all the Allied armies has taken place in Western Europe since General Foch in the late summer of 1918 ordered the general advance which ended in victory.

It is the earnest hope of all that the present powerful advance, even if it does not bring about immediate victory, will ensure it early in the New Year.

A Fair Deal For the Forces

MEN and Women in the Forces are to have a fair share of Civil Service positions.

At the Government suggestion a committee of the Civil Service National Whitley Council has considered the problem and their report has been published as a White Paper.

The normal method of entry into the Civil Service, by open competition, has been suspended during the war; although the ranks of the Service have been very much swollen, nearly all new appointments have been of a temporary nature. Actually the permanent Civil Service is below strength, for there are more Departments than before the war, and men and women who have reached retiring age have not been replaced.

When the war with Germany is over this position will need to be put right, and permanent Civil Servants will be required. So it is proposed that "reconstruction competitions" should be held.

These competitions will be open to all, but it is laid down that

three-quarters of all administrative class posts, two-thirds of those in the executive class, and one half of those in the clerical class will be reserved for ex-Service men. For ex-Service women additional vacancies are being reserved. The competitions are to extend over such a time that the men released late will have equal opportunity with those competing in the early stages. As regards age limits these will be adjusted to allow for war service.

Candidates for administrative posts are expected to have a University degree of at least second-class honours standard or a year's full-time University attendance with expectation of a degree; for executive posts full-time education up to 17 or Higher School Certificate is expected of candidates; and for the clerical class full-time education up to 16 or School Certificate.

If justified by examination results, an even higher proportion of vacancies will be filled by ex-Service men.

In Liberated Norway

IT is good news indeed that the first member of the Norwegian Government is back in his homeland. He is Mr Terje Wold, Minister of Justice. Other Norwegian officials are there too, carrying on their work of administering their own country. These officials with 250 soldiers of Norway's army left Britain in a warship and travelled to Kirkenes in the North of Norway.

They found that terrible damage had been done to Kirkenes by the retreating Germans. The people were living in caves and were pitifully short of food. None of this, however, had damped their enthusiasm, and when their fellow countrymen arrived a thousand hardy young men of Kirkenes and the district enrolled for military service.

Thus another stage is begun in the glorious march of Liberation.

GREAT CRICKETER

THE greatest of England's cricket captains since W. G. Grace—that was the opinion held, by many competent critics, of A. C. MacLaren, who died recently at the age of 72.

When captain of the Harrow eleven, Archie MacLaren was invited to play for Lancashire, and in his first county match scored 108. In 1894 he was selected as a member of the England team to visit Australia. Later he was to be England's skipper. Outstanding in MacLaren's brilliant cricket career was his record score of 424 runs in one innings against Somerset at Taunton, in 1895. This stood as a record in first-class cricket until 1922 when W. H. Ponsford, of Australia, beat it with 429.

A. C. MacLaren was truly one of the giants of our National game.

A Month at Home

EVERYONE has been delighted to learn from the Prime Minister that a scheme has been worked out which will mean four weeks' leave at home for men who have long borne the burden of battle overseas.

The men affected are in Italy and North Africa, the Middle East, Persia and Irak, India and South-East Asia, and East Africa; and, subject to war needs, the plan means that some 6000 men will come home each month, and about 80,000 in a full year.

The first men home for this longed-for leave will be from the Mediterranean areas, and we shall rejoice in spirit with any families who get the best of all presents—their own soldier for Christmas. Men from more distant parts will begin to arrive home in the New Year, and it is also hoped that a system of short leave will be possible before long for men on the Western Front.

All this is in addition to the sending home of men who have served the full term overseas.

SALUTE THE TIMES

ON Saturday, November 25, the 50,000th number of The Times Newspaper was published. This great journal was born on January 1, 1785, and is the oldest national daily newspaper still existing in this country.

Everyone agrees that The Times is second to none in British journalism; indeed, it is acknowledged throughout the world as the national newspaper, always accurate and of the highest literary quality.

With representatives throughout the world, The Times has built up the highest reputation for reliable Imperial and Foreign News, while its Parliamentary and Law Reports, Financial and Commercial news, and all matters concerned with the Arts, Sciences, Social Life, and Sport, are dealt with by experts. In its correspondence columns, too, anyone can ventilate a grievance or appeal to public opinion.

Its leading articles are vigorous and outspoken, and have long been regarded both at home and abroad as the expression of the British character.

During the present war The Times' offices in Printing House Square, London, suffered severe damage; yet the paper appeared just as usual, as though nothing had happened. It symbolised then, as indeed it always does, the impregnable courage and steadfastness of our people.

Ice Cream Again

THE Minister of Food has announced the removal of the ban on the manufacture of ice cream. Three cheers! Of course, we must not expect an immediate return to those halcyon days when armies of smiling men and women invited passers-by to stop them and buy one. Ingredients, manpower, and transport are difficulties. But, by next summer—Who knows?

Peter Puck has sent us the following lines:

I was so sad
When they forbade
Ice cream.
Now all is right,
With great delight
I scream.

LITTLE NEWS REELS

AMPLE supplies of cinchona bark, from which anti-malarial quinine is produced, are ready to be shipped from South America. These will replace the supplies of quinine cut off when the Japanese occupied the Netherlands East Indies.

The Church Assembly has decided to raise funds to help to rebuild the war-shattered Christian churches of Europe.

An Englishman in Argentina sent a large quantity of honey to Princess Elizabeth for her to share among British children.

A tunnel between the Isle of Sheppey and the Kent mainland is proposed.

Boys of Worcester Royal Grammar School, who serve all their own meals and wash up afterwards are said by their headmaster to work more quickly and to break fewer articles than the former servants.

Between breakfast on Monday and tea the following Thursday an aeroplane flew from New Zealand to Britain.

BRITISH children this Christmas who go to parties organised by the W V S, British Red Cross, and British War Relief Society will in many cases receive toys from the U.S., Australia, and South America.

A Maori Bible is being compiled by Maori scholars, and will be ready shortly after the war.

A 4-engined York has flown the 2480 miles from London to Cairo in 10 hours, 25 minutes.

Liberation News Reel

ODESSA is recovering rapidly from enemy occupation. Not only have the great Andre Marquis shipyards been repaired, but the first ship to be built there since the Germans left has been launched.

The first girl to jump with British parachutists was the Greek girl, Sonia Stefanidou, who with a party of our men descended into the German-occupied town of Florina in Greece in 1943.

To commemorate the heroism of Naga tribesmen in meeting and overcoming Japanese aggression the Indian Government is to build a hospital at Kohima, Assam.

Since liberation, coal production in France has increased by 178,000 tons per week; 1238 bridges, railway stations, and other communication works have been repaired, and many canals have been re-opened.

The Antwerp Atlantic Hotel, taken over by N.A.A.F.I., now caters for 5000 troops daily.

The British 14th Army in Burma will have turkeys and chickens for Christmas, presents from the American Army in this sector.

Youth News Reel

THE Scout Silver Cross has been awarded to William Gogan and Patrol Leader Philip Downs, both Senior Scouts of the 11th Acton Group, for rescuing a struggling soldier from drowning in the River Loddon, Hampshire.

Because of the international spirit of Scouting, twenty Montreal Boy Scouts were selected to act as messengers at the conference of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (U.N.R.R.A.) held in Canada recently.

When Keith Carley, a Senior Sizer of the 6th Osterley (St Francis) Cub Pack, was evacuated to Moor Ends near Doncaster he discovered that there

Sir F. Handley-Page has been honoured with a fellowship of the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences of America.

St Hugh's College, Oxford, has been offered £20,000, spread over eight years, to form the nucleus of an endowment fund.

Over 10,000 toys for war orphans have been made by Bristol workers out of salvaged packing-cases, crates, and timber from bombed houses.

THE Empire Cancer Campaign has allocated £39,000 for cancer research in 1945, as against £36,000 for the present year.

The James Watt International Medal has been awarded to Dr F. W. Lanchester, motor-car and aeroplane pioneer.

Senior pupils of Tynemouth schools are to pay monthly visits to the local infirmary where, after inspecting the X-ray apparatus and operating theatre, they will be given simple lessons on medical and surgical subjects.

British railways hope to run more passenger trains early next year. Carriages are to be re-upholstered and repaired.

Snow in November is not an indication of a hard winter, say Meteorological experts, who prophesy that this winter is likely to be a normal one.

An exploding meteor seen in the sky in Canada gave rise to rumours that a V 2 rocket bomb had crossed the Atlantic. Astronomers explained what had happened.

ITALIAN Partisans found a R.A.F. bomb that had failed to explode. They rolled the bomb to the bridge it had been originally aimed at and blew up the main arch.

In an attack on an enemy convoy off the Dalmatian coast, our M.G.B.s sailed in so close to the shore that their shells started a large bush fire on the cliffs.

American soldiers near Metz were surprised to see 40 German military policemen in smart uniforms marching briskly down the road. The Germans had taken the wrong turning and were very annoyed when they found that they were themselves to be arrested.

YET another European capital has been liberated, Tirana in Albania.

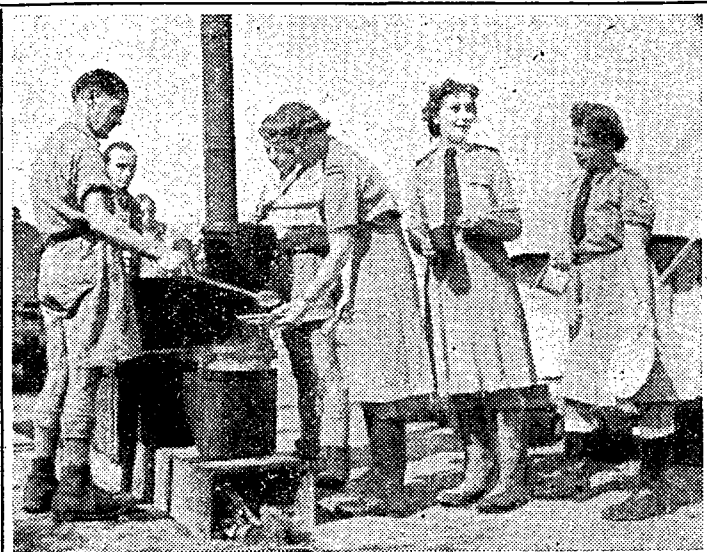
Since D Day 1600 mines have been swept up in the approaches to the Channel ports.

The French Resistance Movement, during the occupation of France, helped nearly 2000 British airmen who had made forced landings there to return to Britain. Hundreds more were hidden.

was no Wolf Cub Pack in the district. Keith and a Scoutmaster started a Pack and now have 51 boys attending regularly.

A message from President Roosevelt, who is President of the Boy Scouts of America and was an active leader in its ranks for 22 years, says that Scouting is writing an inspiring chapter in the history of America. Mr Dewey, Republican candidate in the presidential election, was also a Scout in his Michigan home town.

The London County Council have made plans for a Youth Centre on the south bank of the Thames



Dinnertime For Nurses

It is still mild in Southern France where these R A F nurses of Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Sisters are lining up for their al fresco meal. They live under the same hard camp conditions as the soldiers.

BINOCULARS WITH A HISTORY

UNITED STATES naval authorities have undertaken to hand back to the owners all the binoculars loaned to the Navy by patriotic Americans when there was an acute shortage of binoculars. Together with the returned instruments will be enclosed a note describing the part they have played in the war.

This thoughtful action on the part of the US naval authorities will, we are sure, be highly appreciated by the lenders of the binoculars.

SPEEDING HOUSE REPAIRS

THE task of repairing bombed houses is being greatly speeded-up by an electric putty remover which, it is estimated, is saving 75 per cent of the time usually spent in replacing broken windows.

The instrument was devised by the Ministry of Works from ideas brought forward by Mr Cyril Walker, the Borough Valuer of Croydon. Similar in appearance to a large revolver, it removes the old, hard putty by a chisel action.

Several of these machines are touring the country in motor-coaches and are helping to restore a little much-needed comfort to the unfortunate victims of enemy action.

Hope For Ancient Manila

ALREADY well established on the island of Leyte in the Philippines, the Americans have recently sent their bombers to attack Japanese military targets at Manila, on Luzon Island, capital city of the group.

There are no fewer than 7083 islands in the Philippine group, and all but 466 have areas of less than one square mile.

Though the Philippine Islands did not become an American possession until 1898, Manila is the oldest city in US ownership, and one of the most beautiful. Founded by the Spaniard Legaspi in 1571, it soon became a missionary centre, and its magnificent cathedral, archbishop's palace, churches, monasteries, and mint were all

LUCKY NUMBER

THERE is no place for superstition in the C N, so we do not believe that 13 is an unlucky number.

On the contrary, we know that it is a lucky number for the little people of a wartime nursery in Rochdale, Lancashire. For they have working for them 13 "uncles," members of the armourers' section of the R C A F Tiger Squadron of Bomber Group. Realising the scarcity and high price of toys in wartime England these large-hearted Canadians set themselves the pleasant task of making a toy for every child in the nursery.

So that the toys shall be in good time for Christmas delivery in the time-honoured manner, the airmen decided that all should be completed by December 1. Each toy-maker is using his own ideas and designs, and many trucks, boats, engines, and other attractive toys have been made from scrap materials available at the bomber station. Skilled craftsmen all, the men have been happy to give their spare time, and many a day off duty has been cheerfully spent in the "toy-making shop." To make their gifts even sweeter the men have given up their sweet rations so that with each toy will go one week's ration.

Lucky little people—and happy 13!

GOOD PROGRESS

THE progress of medical science in this war has alleviated much human suffering in spite of the added horrors which the development of man's destructive powers has produced. In this war the number of wounded soldiers who die is half that of the last war, although the wounds inflicted this time are generally more serious than was the case before. Only three out of every hundred wounded soldiers die in war, whereas seven or eight in every hundred died 26 years ago.

This splendid reduction in the mortality rate is due to improved methods of surgery put into operation, close to the firing line, to the use of sulphur drugs, which prevent gangrene, the use of the marvellous new drug penicillin, and to blood transfusions.

In this war wounded soldiers can be flown in an hour and a half to England from hospitals close to the front.

TREETOP WILFRED

WILFRED was a frightened kitten when he found he had climbed too far up a tall tree in a Liverpool garden.

The tree was too thin to support a ladder, and poor Wilfred looked like remaining a tree-dweller until somebody remembered how often he had been turned out from sleeping in the family shopping-bag. So the bag was tied to a tall clothes-prop and pushed up to Wilfred, who thankfully crawled inside and promptly curled up for a nap in his favourite bed!

SHALL WE BUY A DOG?

Questions Answered About Dogs. By C. Rowland Johns (Jordan, 2s 6d).

IN this excellent little book 250 questions that any prospective dog-owner might ask are simply answered. The author emphasises that a dog that is a danger on the roads—as so many of our friends' dogs are—is always one that has not been trained.

There is much valuable information in the book on teaching puppies road-safety, and evidently C. Rowland Johns is an expert in that art. The author is opposed to old-fashioned methods of teaching pups by beating them and hauling them violently to and fro on a lead. It is interesting to note that a dog which obediently follows his master though not on a lead, is legally considered to be "under control."

Every aspect of wise dog-keeping is covered in this book, which is illustrated by eight fascinating photos of different breeds of dogs. It is just the book for anyone thinking of keeping a dog.

MICHAEL DIGS FOR VICTORY

MICHAEL ALEXANDER AUCHTER-LOHIE, a seven-year-old evacuee to America from Green Hammerton, near York, has been elected an honorary member of the Grosse Pointe and Eastern Michigan Horticultural Society in recognition of his reputation as a keen victory digger.

Michael has been at Grosse Pointe for four years and attends the country school, where he has given evidence of his enthusiasm for garden work. He is the youngest honorary member ever enrolled in the history of the society.

Nature's Undersea Treasures

THE oilfields of Baku have long been one of the main sources of Russia's mineral wealth. Most of them are on the Bakakhani Peninsula which juts out into the Caspian Sea. Now Russian scientists have discovered that under that sea is petroleum enough to feed great industries on land. Wells a mile and more in depth are being sunk in the sea-bed, and oil in abundance comes safely up.

The development will resemble that of the Californian oil-field which extends under the Pacific Ocean. There, hundreds of borings have been made and the long derrick-crowned piers form a remarkable spectacle, soon to have its counterpart in the ancient Caspian Sea.

Nearly 170,000 square miles in extent, and receiving the waters of the mighty Volga, among other rivers, the Caspian, vastest of inland waters, is a curiosity among seas. Once linked with the Baltic, the Sea of Aral, and possibly the Black Sea, it lies

85 feet below normal sea-level. Seals abound in it, living relics of days when communication with the open ocean admitted them; while the multitude of Caspian sturgeon and sterlets yielded peacetime fishermen a revenue of hundreds of thousands of pounds yearly from the caviare and isinglass of which they are the source.

But the marine animals, or vegetable matter, which millions of years have converted into oil beneath the sea-bed, will be far more valuable in the future, going to swell Russia's already rich resources in oil which the Germans so vainly coveted.

The Caspian is not the only sea in the Old World to conceal wealth. Some of our own coastal waters, notably at Whitehaven, Cumberland, have immense coalfields under them, and it was an investigating excavation of the chalk near Dover in connection with the Channel Tunnel that brought the Kent coal seams to light.

VILLAGE CAPITAL

CETINJE has been liberated by the troops of Marshal Tito. The name of this former capital "city" is less familiar to the boys and girls of this war than it was to those who were at school between 1914 and 1918.

Then, Cetinje was the capital of Montenegro, one of the Allied nations which fought Kaiser Wilhelm's Germany. No picture of the flags of the Allies was complete without the red-blue-white of Montenegro, the mountain nation which became a part of Yugoslavia after the war. Cetinje, although it was a capital, was never more than a village; its population was 5500.

REFORMED GANGSTERS

IN a slum district in Chicago a juvenile officer has organised a police club for the "war-work orphans" who were in the habit of running wild while their parents were at work. Over 3500 children have joined this club, which appoints its own leaders, and as a result the gangs have disappeared and juvenile delinquency has dropped by 35 per cent.

RIDICULOUS

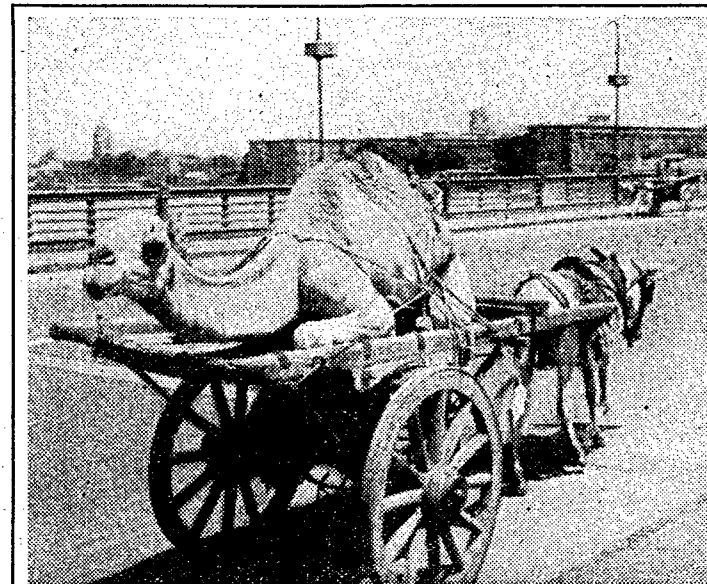
AN American senator with the unusual name of Hickenlooper tells this very amusing story about himself: A dear old lady asked him his name. When he told her she cupped her ear with her hand and several times asked him to repeat it. At last she sighed and gave it up.

"It's no use, I can't get it," she said. "I keep thinking you're saying a ridiculous word like Hickenlooper."

GIANT OAKS REQUIRED

DURING the air raids in 1942 the city of York lost its historic fifteenth-century Guildhall. Its roof was supported by ten giant pillars fashioned 500 years ago out of single oak trees taken from the forest of Galtres. Now the country is being searched for 17 giant oaks to take their place.

The oaks for the pillars must have boles 27 feet high and 5 feet in diameter, and the timbers for the beams must be 23 feet long and 2 feet 9 inches in diameter. When they are obtained they must be weathered and matured for five years.



The Camel Smiles

But the poor donkey looks dejected. Perhaps he fails to see the joke of giving the lazy creature a lift through a Cairo street. Note that the passenger prefers to ride with his back to the "engine"!



Father Christmas Comes to Town

Santa Claus looks rather bewildered and no doubt thinks times have changed as this strapping young sergeant of the A.T.S. leads him to a toy fair at a West London store. His guide's name is Atkins and perhaps he wonders if her first one is Thomasina.

THEY WILL RISE AGAIN

BEFORE the Great Fire in 1666, the City of London was the proud possessor of some hundred churches, but only 72 survived or were rebuilt after that mighty conflagration. Of these, 51 were designed by the great Sir Christopher Wren.

Aerial bombardment has made havoc of many of our City churches, and the Bishop of London set up a Commission to deal with this problem. The commissioners have now issued their report in which they state that although there were more City churches than were required for ordinary parish needs, the problem should not be approached from that point of view, but rather in the light of their great architectural and historic interest.

"To demolish any church which is an acknowledged work of art and has survived destruction by enemy action would, in our opinion, be an act of vandalism which would shock the conscience of the country, if not of the world."

Accordingly, the commission have recommended that no Wren church not already damaged be-

yond satisfactory restoration shall be removed except in a case of most urgent necessity.

Of the 45 churches which remain in the City of London, 28 are so far untouched or only slightly damaged, and 17 have been more or less seriously damaged. Of the 17, the commission recommend that eight or nine should be restored as churches. They propose that the sites of four or five of the others should be sold and a part at least of the proceeds used to establish on the remaining three or four sites institutes for the young workers in all parts of the City, and for the social activities of the City parishes generally. This is a splendid scheme. City churches have suffered a grave handicap in being without parish halls or institutes such as most other churches possess; and now is the golden opportunity.

The Bishop of London's Commission has done a good job of work. The preservation of the City of London's beautiful temples of the past is as necessary for posterity as anything can be. Equally important, too, is the provision for social work.

A Valuable Science Gift

FROM time to time men and women who have acquired precious collections of artistic, historic, or scientific interest present them to the nation or to seats of learning. Such is the case with Mr. R. S. Whipple, who has given to Cambridge University a part of his valuable collection of historic scientific instruments and books. The gift includes astronomical instruments, a remarkable collection of sundials dating from the sixteenth century, telescopes, in-

cluding Sir William Herschel's, and microscopes, and 1500 volumes of books, including first editions of the works of Bacon, Galileo, Boyle, Hooke, Newton, and Darwin.

To be known as the Whipple Collection; it is hoped that this gift will be the nucleus of a History of Science Museum and Library at the University. Oxford University already has such a museum in the Lewis Evans collection, presented in 1924.

What Children Read in America

It is a solemn thought that future peace depends largely on mutual understanding between the citizens of Britain and the U.S.A. Those who will have to maintain this understanding are the people who in both countries are still at school. How better can they get to know each other, separated as they are by the Atlantic, than by reading each other's books?

It was with this idea that the Books Across the Sea Society organised an exhibition of American children's books in London, and another one of British children's books in New York at the same time.

The one in London was held at Chaucer House, and the impression one first gained when going round the tables of books was that boys and girls in the U.S.A. have very much the same taste in literature as they have here. Humorous books are clearly popular over there, and at the outset one's eye was caught by a large book entitled: *Hi-Po the Hippo*, with a gorgeous picture on the cover of a baby hippo lying snugly and snugly in a cot. This book by Dorothy Thomas, published by Random House, New York, is dedicated to Rosie, the Dainty Pink Hippopotamus in the Central Park Zoo—evidently a national character.

Like ourselves, American young people are fond of books about animals and one of the most attractive of these at the exhibition was *Dash and Dart, the Story of Two Fawns*, with many beautiful coloured drawings of the two, timid, delicate creatures. Among nature books one of the most fascinating was *The Tale of the Promethea Moth*, with full-page photogravure pictures of every stage of the moth's life.

Of course, there were many books dealing with American heroes and heroines and American history—a lavishly-illustrated volume about the life of Abraham Lincoln, and another about Benjamin Franklin, the great scientist, books about the early pioneer days and about real Red Indians instead of imaginary ones.

A book that reminds us of how in the U.S.A. peoples of different races are fused into one great democratic nation is called *Americans Every One*. It tells the stories of young immigrants such as Poles and Czechs who at first feel strange in their new Homeland but soon settle down as good Americans.

When the time comes that books can be freely sent across the Atlantic the young people on both sides will feel as they read each other's books how close in mind and spirit are the two great English-speaking nations.

TOC H BACK HOME

EVERYBODY in this country will be delighted to hear that the noble brotherhood of Toc H is once again in possession of its original home, Talbot House at Poperinghe. They will delight also in the news that all the treasures of that unpretentious old house, sacrosanct to so many of the men who fought in the last war, are all intact, hidden from the enemy by gallant Belgians who never doubted that one day we should return.

EDITOR'S TABLE

It Can Be Done

IN 1943—and it will be so in 1944 as well—our industrial production, in volume, and value, reached the highest point of all time in our history, and it has been achieved upon imports from overseas which are less than one-half of what we imported before the war."

Mr Oliver Lyttelton, Minister of Production, made this remarkable statement recently.

This has been achieved in the name of War—it is Production for Destruction. It shows what can be done; and when the time of Production for Construction is at hand the effort must be even greater if we are to fulfil the ambitious plans being made for the post-war Britain.

Tubby and the Tankers

AFTER spending 12 months as a convoy chaplain with our oil-tankers in the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf, and the eastern Mediterranean, the Revd P. T. B. Clayton, padre of Toc H, is home.

Tubby, as Mr Clayton is widely known, has been able to learn much of the very exacting work and the needs of the crews of these vessels with their dangerous and unpleasant-smelling cargoes; and his journeyings have also given him the opportunity of seeing the work of Toc H. In the Middle East, he says, there are now more than 120 Toc H units against only three before the war.

The lamp that was first lighted many years ago in the little house at Poperinghe, has shed its radiance far and wide since then. And with no group of men, we imagine, would the sturdy Christian principles of Toc H make a greater appeal than among our hardy merchant seamen of the oil-tankers.

CARRY ON

The Value of Opinions

A MAN'S opinions are generally of much more value than his arguments. These last are made by his brain, and perhaps he does not believe the proposition they tend to prove, as is often the case with paid lawyers; but opinions are formed by our whole nature—brain, heart, instinct, brute life, everything all our experience has shaped for us by contact with the whole circle of our being.

Oliver Wendell Holmes

LOVE'S GALILEE

WE may not climb the heavenly steep To bring the Lord Christ down: In vain we search the lowest deep, For Him no depths can drown. But warm, sweet, tender, even yet A present help is He; And faith has still its Olivet, And love its Galilee.

John Greenleaf Whittier

SPIRITUAL

WE gratefully quote from the Daily Telegraph this moving extract from a recent letter in its columns written by a British officer in the Royal Armoured Corps:

To all at home with a clear conscience, may I pass on this recipe for getting through a cheerless winter? Conjure up the joy on countless people's faces; feel the rough embrace of the peasant who has come running across the stubble to greet you; watch them dancing in the streets of Belgian villages; see the tears on old men's faces as they raise their hats and mumble the simple word *Merçi*;

Music of the

MUSIC is international. Unlike books and plays, it is a universal language. All good music carries a common note of appeal to music-lovers the world over. A good instance of this is the appeal which Beethoven, the German, and Tschai-kovsky, the Russian, make to British listeners. It follows; therefore, that music can be a means of drawing the nations of the world closer together.

The British Council has been doing excellent work by introducing British musical works to many lands, including Chile and

Under the E

A GARDENER tells us that medlars should be left on the tree until later. Not meddled with.

A FAMOUS speaker never raises his voice. Perhaps his words are weighty.

THE dream school is on the way. The out-of-date one is in the way.

AN airman says he flew for two days and nights on end across the Pacific. Why didn't he try it the right way up?

PETER P
WANTS
TO
KNOW



If autumn
are au
leavi

Vision at E

LOOK, William, how the morning mists Have covered all the scene, Nor house nor hill can'st thou behold, Grey wood, or meadow green. The distant spire across the vale These floating vapours shroud, Scarce are the neighbouring poplars seen. Pale shadowed in the cloud. But seest thou, William, where the mists Sweep o'er the southern sky,

How Sweet

REST! How sweet a word is this to mine ears! Methinks the sound doth turn to substance, and, having entered at the ear, doth possess my brain, and thence descendeth down to my very heart; methinks I feel it stir and work, and that through all my parts and powers, but with a various work upon my various parts;

TONIC

listen to the church bells pealing in the hamlet behind you as you pass through on the heels of the enemy; and know your share in it. For, in reality, there is on God's earth no tonic like it.

Here, from one who is in the van of the Army of Liberation, a message written from the art to strike a chord in the hearts of us all during this sixth winter of war. Here is a message bidding us all to warm ourselves in the glow of gratitude so manifest, a message somehow pulsating, in Mr Eden's fine phrase, "the heartbeat of a nation."

Spheres

Dr Malcolm Sargent has conducted concerts in Sweden and Sir Edward Elgar's Enigma variations have been played in Uruguay. All this, even in wartime, augurs well for the future. The playing of British music abroad should promote a better understanding of the British temperament and outlook. Conversely, if we in Britain hear the music of other countries we shall get nearer to understanding them.

JUST AN IDEA

It is better to give up great possessions than abandon our hopes.

Editor's Table



leaves turn

WE can learn many things from films. Some teach us how not to act.

It is rude to pull faces. Or slap them.

THE President of the Board of Trade has fixed ceiling prices for carpets. What about those that go on the floor?

A FIFTY-YEAR-OLD cycle was offered for sale at 19. The owner was surprised that it went.

Early Morn

The dim effulgence of the sun
That lights them as they fly?

Soon shall that glorious orb of day
In all his strength arise,
And roll along his azure way,
Through clear and cloudless skies.
Then shall we see across the vale
The village spire so white,
And the grey wood and meadows green
Shall live again in light.

Robert Southey

It is Rest!

to my wearied senses and languid spirits it seems a quieting powerful opiate; to my dulled powers it is spirit and life; to my dark eyes it is both eye-salve and a prospective; to my taste it is sweetness; to mine ears it is melody; to my hands and feet it is strength and nimbleness.

Richard Baxter

According to Plan

THAT witty Irish paper, Dublin Opinion, has made the happy suggestion that after the war our newspapers should continue to print maps with shaded portions indicating the places occupied by poverty and disease, and arrows showing the drives being made against them.

For that is the war which must be relentlessly pursued in peace—the war against mankind's deadliest enemies; and we fervently hope that it will be waged with as much zeal as the present world-struggle, and that, like this, it will go on until those enemies have been shorn of their powers to inflict untold suffering and misery on all the peoples.

STILL BEAUTIFUL

From a West Country Correspondent

ONCE went into St Andrew's, Mother Church of Plymouth. It was a beautiful old Church.

I saw it again in 1941 after the enemy had been. The age-old walls were blackened by fire, and there was no roof.

I saw it again last spring. A carpet of green grass lay like a lawn where the pews used to be, and there were cloths of gold—daffodils—all along the borders. Sweet-smelling narcissi, too, and primroses... It was still beautiful. People came in twos and threes and trod softly as if on holy ground. Some came to rest awhile and to pray in this lovely Garden Church.

I saw it again in the summer, flooded with warm sunshine. Rambler roses climbed the great pillars, and the marigolds were out, the geraniums, and the nasturtiums. It was still beautiful.

Autumn laid its mellowing hand on the ruined church, and the chrysanthemums opened in all their glory, and it was still beautiful there.

Some day, please God, St Andrew's will become more beautiful than ever. That is the promise of the golden letters "Resurgam" across the altar.

Boswell Sums Up Dr Johnson

HE loved praise, when it was brought to him; but was too proud to seek for it. He was somewhat susceptible of flattery. As he was general and unconfined in his studies, he cannot be considered as master of any one particular science; but he had accumulated a vast and varied collection of learning and knowledge, which was so arranged in his mind as to be ever in readiness to be brought forth. But his superiority over other learned men consisted chiefly in what may be called the art of thinking, the art of using his mind.

HOME IS BEST

STAY, stay at home, my heart, and rest; Home-keeping hearts are happiest, For those that wander they know are not where. Are full of trouble and full of care; To stay at home is best.

Longfellow

Schools of the Future

THE plans for better schools, in accordance with the new Education Act, are beginning to unfold. The Ministry of Education have issued regulations, to come into force on April 1, 1945, setting out standards of accommodation and equipment for all types of schools—from the nursery to the boarding school. The minimum area for a school site, including playground space, is to be half an acre for the smallest primary school and three acres for a three-form entry secondary school. In addition, playing fields must be provided, if possible on land adjoining the school premises. These fields will range from half an acre for the smallest primary school to fourteen acres for the large secondary schools.

For new schools, sites on main roads or making it necessary for children to cross such roads are to be avoided, if possible. Also, the selectors of the sites must have regard to the availability of public services, the avoidance of exposure to prevailing winds, and the advantage of full sunlight. Every school must have a room for teachers, accommodation for medical inspection and treatment, drying facilities, and adequate storage space.

Separate dining-rooms to seat at least 65 per cent of the number of pupils, in not more than two shifts, must be provided in all but the smaller primary schools.

All county and voluntary schools should have arrangements for showing films, and at least some classrooms wired for broadcast reception.

These new regulations will give us modern schools in which education of the right sort, health, safety, and the general wellbeing of children will receive proper attention.

We would lay stress on the provision of school playing fields, which are necessary not only for the health but for the training of children. It is certain that the playing of outdoor games has been one of the secrets of our national greatness. If boys and girls, particularly those who live in congested towns and cities, can learn from the beginning of their schooldays to play the game in a proper team spirit, the qualities gained will be of lasting benefit in later life.

PEEPING TOM

PERHAPS only twice in history have Englishmen been forbidden to look out of their windows. The first occasion was when Lady Godiva rode through the streets of Coventry, and the second, centuries later, was not long before D Day when householders near the Sussex coast were ordered to stay indoors, put up their blackout, and not look out of their windows.

The actual reason for this order was that the great secret rehearsal of the invasion of Normandy was being held on this coast. The people, of course, were not told just what was going on, and one Peeping Tom, putting a cautious eye round his blind, saw—not a Lady Godiva but General Eisenhower. This Peeping Tom had as big a surprise as the one at Coventry hundreds of years before.

R. L. S. OF HAPPY MEMORY

It is but fifty years ago on Sunday since Robert Louis Stevenson—beloved R. L. S.—breathed his last in his home in far-off Samoa, and was laid to rest, as he had wished, on a mountain-top Under the Wide and Starry Sky.

THOSE fifty years, however, have in no way dimmed the lustre of his name and fame, and he remains secure in his place among the Immortals. R. L. S. lived but a short life, maintaining throughout a brave though losing battle against ill-health; but in his brief 44 years his many-sided genius gave overflowing measure, producing work after work which bears the hallmark of quality.

R. L. S. made lasting contributions to every realm of English Literature, and wherever in fancy we wander with him we can be sure of rich reward. Whether we go forth with the poet into the Child's Garden of Verses, where This was the world and I was King; whether we wander with the essayist in the forest, Among the Pines; or whether we embark with the novelist for the distant shores of Treasure Island—wherever we go with R. L. S. we are sure of a worthy guide and a good companion.

Young folk should cherish a particular affection for R. L. S., and not only because of his writings; with Treasure Island and Kidnapped he takes them soaring with him into realms of high adventure, with Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde he thrills them, and their elders, too, with his poems he touches their fancy with tenderness and sympathy.

But in these poems his Child's Garden of Verses, we get something else, too. For the childhood of R. L. S. was one of long ill-health and sometimes of needful hardship. Not that he was poor, for he came of a prosper-

ous family, and his parents loved their only child. But his mother was an invalid in early life, so little Robert Louis was left to the care of nurses. And the first two, who did not stay long, were bad.

Then came the third, the famous Cummy, as Alison Cunningham was called by the family. She long outlived her charge, and she loved and cared for the small boy not only with tenderness but with deep understanding. Yet Cummy was responsible, without realising it, for many of the anxieties and fears which are reflected in Stevenson's Poems for Children.

She was a remarkable woman, was Cummy, an ideal companion for her sensitive and imaginative Smoutie, as she always called him. She had a rare feeling for poetry, a rich store of tales and legends with which she made Smoutie's daytime hours delightful. But Cummy was deeply religious, and unfortunately her religion took the form of stories, too, dark stories of eternal punishment which waked poor little Smoutie screaming in the middle of the night.

Smoutie should never have lived in Edinburgh, in that big and draughty house, nor should he have stayed so often in the damp and low-lying home of his mother's father, Dr Balfour. It was not until 1889, in the last years of his life, that he found the only home where he was always warm and happy, at Vailima, in Samoa. And it was there, fifty years ago, that they laid him to his last rest, on a mountain near the Pacific.

No World Oil-Shortage

It is interesting to note that reports of the great possibilities of petroleum production in Britain coincide with the latest survey of the world oil situation. It has often been gloomily prophesied that humanity would soon use up all the Earth's oil deposits and then there would be no more cars and planes as we know them.

However, the surveyors of the Ethyl Petrol Corporation point out that there is already known to be under the Earth's surface oil deposits to the extent of

100,000 million barrels, and of this vast reserve only a measure of 20,000 million barrels can be raised by present methods.

In addition to these enormous reserves there must be reckoned many other rich oilfields which have not yet been discovered. These will be revealed when all countries have been thoroughly surveyed for oil. It is quite likely that in our island more oilfields will be found lying deep under the soil.

So there is really no fear of the world running out of petrol.



THIS ENGLAND Swaledale lambs from the Westmorland hills arrive at a lowland farm for winter.

STALINGRAD'S SMALLEST DEFENDER

Healthy Wartime Children

We have received, by cable from Moscow, the following story in which M. Makarov describes the bravery of a very young Russian boy to whom one of his country's most-prized medals has recently been given.

THERE WAS much excitement in Moscow school Number 95, Red Presnya district, when 9-year-old Igor Mikhailov, a first-form pupil, was awarded the Defence of Stalingrad medal.

At noon sharp the pupils, from the youngest to the oldest, lined up in the school yard in honour of the occasion. Little Igor stood shyly in front with the school staff and guests from the City Soviet. A major from the War Office presented the medal to Igor and told Igor's story.

Here it is:

When the Germans attacked the Soviet Union Igor had hardly turned six. The Mikhailov family then lived in the little town of Brest. On the night of the attack German pilots dropped their bombs on this border town. One of the bombs hit the house where Igor lived. His mother and two little brothers were killed, and Igor was found unconscious under the wreckage. Konstantine Mikhailov, Igor's father, is a Red Army officer. He was at the front when this terrible misfortune befell his family.

Meanwhile, Igor was evacuated to a little Volga town. For many months Igor's father tried to trace his son, and when finally news of Igor's whereabouts reached him, Konstantine Mikhailov was commanding a battery in Stalingrad, and asked to have his boy sent to him.

Thus it happened that the little boy was destined to witness the epic events of the great battle of Stalingrad. Igor remained with his father all through the fighting. In the most perilous days Konstantine Mikhailov was at his gun day and night and his little son was at his side, and, like his father, remained undaunted by the enemy hurricane of fire.

The boy helped the gunners in every possible way. He was always glad to run errands, fetch buckets of water, and run for the mail and daily papers. The men regarded him as a fully fledged defender of the city, and finally inducted him to the battery.

When the Germans had been routed at Stalingrad Igor was sent to Moscow to get medical treatment, as his health had been seriously impaired. He now lives in Moscow with his two aunts. His father is still at the front fighting the Germans.

As for Igor, he is very happy to be at school and is very popular with his schoolmates. He writes regularly to his father telling him of his progress at school. In turn, his father keeps Igor posted on the doings of the battery. Nikolai Kuborsky, principal of the school, told me Igor was a very studious and serious pupil. Despite all that he has lived through, he is at the top of his class, and even coaches some of his classmates.

THE Ministry of Health have some encouraging things to say in their report on the health of our nation for the year ended March 31, 1944.

They state that, in some respects the nutrition of the population has actually been improved, particularly in regard to mothers and children.

The year 1943-44 established new low records in death rates of mothers and babies, and of children up to ten years of age, also in deaths from typhoid fever, diphtheria, pleurisy, appendicitis, and many other diseases.

During that year over a million children were immunised against diphtheria under local authority arrangements. The Ministry estimate that, at the end of 1943, about 56 per cent of the children of this country had been immunised. The wisdom of this precaution cannot be questioned. Up to not so very long ago diphtheria was a terrible scourge in this country; but immunisation has reduced the menace to very small proportions.

The Ministry's report reflects the greatest credit on the Government, the local authorities, the doctors, and on parents, for there is no doubt that the upheaval of a total war is a terrible menace to civilian health. We shall need all the health we can get when we start to put the world right after the battle has been won. How vital is it, then, to preserve health now, especially among children.

SCOTLAND'S HOUSING PROBLEM

IN the recent 80,000-word report of the Scottish Housing Advisory Committee on the Distribution of New Houses in Scotland perhaps the chief point made is that work and homes must go together. During the next ten years, according to the report, two-fifths of the population of Scotland will be on the move. This creates special problems, for areas which have not enough work for their inhabitants must be discouraged from building too many new homes, whereas other districts must be helped to build homes for newcomers.

It is suggested that in the bigger towns new houses should be grouped together in "neighbourhood units" for approximately 5000 to 10,000 people, adequately provided with churches, schools, and recreational facilities. Small towns in the country should be encouraged to develop as centres, accessible to the villages.

Planning takes time, and in order that past mistakes may not be repeated, must be kept continually ahead of the actual construction of the houses by at least two years; and these suggestions are put forward.

Firstly, that as soon as the population has settled down after the war a house-to-house survey should be made to serve as a basis for a long-term housing plan. Secondly, that planning authorities should regularly consult industrialists to obtain correct estimates of housing requirements. Thirdly, that a second survey should be made of families living too far from their work.



A School Post Office

These children are demonstrating how to run a post office at an exhibition entitled The First Stage in Education, held in London by the Nursery School Association Centre.

A NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS

IT is common knowledge that the House of Commons was destroyed by enemy action. A Select Committee has been considering the rebuilding of our Second Chamber, and they have now issued their report. The Committee chose the famous architect, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, to guide their deliberations and produce plans.

It is intended that the new building shall be in keeping with the Gothic style of the Palace of Westminster, and that the sense of intimacy and almost conversational form of debate encouraged by the dimensions of the old Chamber shall be maintained. The floor of the former Chamber accommodated only 346 members of Parliament out of a total of 615, and this will not be increased, though more and better accommodation will be provided for the Press and the public in the galleries.

Below the Chamber, however, there are to be rooms for Ministers, for conferences, interviews, and secretarial purposes. Many more telephones and call-boxes for members and Press reporters are to be installed.

A new system of heating and ventilation will ensure that members sitting in the Chamber will have cool heads and warm feet. A system of sound amplification is to be introduced so that speakers can be heard all over the House. A domestic type of window design has been adopted as being more suitable than the stained-glass-window type in the old Chamber.

The Royal Fine Arts Commission state that Sir Giles has overcome the difficulties and provided a dignified solution.

There is every indication that the New House of Commons will be worthy of its world-wide renown as a home of democracy.

Home Farming After the War

MANY associations, political and otherwise, are studying the problem of what to do about our farms after the war. The latest to report on this subject is the Liberal National Party, through an Agricultural Committee under Lord Teviot.

A strong point is made in this report of the danger of jeopardising a prosperous home agriculture by a policy of cheap food. If farm workers are to receive the wages which they deserve, and farmers are to earn a reasonable livelihood, with money to spend for new machinery and equipment, the prices paid for home-produced food must be on an adequate economic level and, consequently, considerably higher than before the war. This point has been urged by many experts in the economics of agriculture.

The Liberal Committee recommend that the protection and guarantees which the Wheat Act gave to farmers should be extended to other foodstuffs where possible; the State would then be

entitled to insist upon a high degree of farming efficiency. The continuation of county agricultural committees after the war is advocated, so as to ensure that no one is allowed to continue farming if he is inefficient in skill or management.

While private ownership of land and private enterprise in cultivation are considered desirable, all agricultural land should be scheduled, and the Ministries of Food and Agriculture combined under one Minister, with wide powers of general control.

Another proposal is that small farmers should be served by a central farm equipped with all modern machinery.

The Government, adds the CN farming correspondent, have already pronounced some views on post-war agriculture, but they have not yet produced a comprehensive plan for peacetime farming. It is a complicated problem, and largely an international one, for so much depends upon imports of food.

BEDTIME CORNER

BREAKFAST FOR THE STARLING

O YOU darling
Freckled starling,
Sitting huddled there
Nipped and chilly,
Whistling shrilly
Through the frosty air.
Food I bring you—
Starving thing you—
All your needs I've learnt;
Don't begin it
For a minute
Or you may be burnt.
Call your brothers,
And the others
From their roosting-place;
Breakfast's ready—
Steady! Steady!
Have you said your grace?

Riddle

WHEN is a blow from a man
rather pleasant?
When he strikes you gently.

Jupiter and the Herdsman

A HERDSMAN who had lost a calf out of his field cried to Jupiter for help.
"Great Jupiter," he said, "show me the thief and I will give thee a goat!"
Jupiter answered the prayer and sent the thief to the man.
But it happened to be a lion, and the man at once began praying to Jupiter to drive the thief away, promising the gift of a bull instead of a goat if he would do so.

Always think very carefully before asking for anything.

PRAYER

ALMIGHTY God, grant, we beseech Thee; that we whose trust is under the shadow of Thy wings, may, through the help of Thy power, overcome all evil things that rise up against us.
Amen

JUST IN TIME FOR THE SCHOOL BUS



A TALE OF GREAT CITIES

WHAT will really be the fate of cities and historic centres of population now said to have been ruined beyond repair? What of Stalingrad, and Cassino, and many another scene of fierce conflict?

In the past cities, and with them whole civilisations, have vanished, but of the three greatest cities of ancient civilisation—Carthage, Athens, and Rome—two survive in their historic glory, although the tide of conquest has often submerged them.

The oft-repeated cry of Rome that "Carthage must be destroyed!" was literally obeyed at the end of three wars between Rome and the Phoenician capital. Carthage was razed to the ground and passed under the plough. Yet the city was later rebuilt, and in the early centuries of our era became the third city of the Roman Empire and a stronghold of Christianity. But what Rome had remade the Arabs, 13 centuries ago, destroyed by fire for ever, and our troops during the present war found the site of Carthage unrecognisable as that of the ancient capital that had aspired to mastery of the entire world.

The Glory of Athens

Rome, however, though repeatedly invaded and sacked, is still a city of wonder, despite her many war-wounds of old. Athens, once the literary and artistic metropolis of western mankind, matchless in her splendours of learning, painting, sculpture, and architecture, fell to Rome. Long afterwards she fell to Turkey and sank to the status of a petty provincial town, bombarded more than once, the peerless Parthenon turned into a mosque, her entire fabric repeatedly threatened with ruin.

Yet, as Rome is the latterly unscathed capital of Italy, so Athens remains that of rejoicing Greece, with liberty all but completely regained.

But as an example of cities ravaged by violence let us turn to Jerusalem. No implements of destruction so terrible as those scientifically employed in modern war were used against her, but never was demolition more thorough than in her case. Utterly destroyed 25 centuries ago, Jerusalem was rebuilt, to fall again, its temple desecrated.

Jerusalem rose again fair and strong, but in AD 70 Titus, who was our Emperor as well as ruler of Rome, so completely destroyed the city as to leave not one stone upon another. Yet again she was resurrected from her ruin of rubble, to become lastingly the Holy City of Christian, Jew, and Moslem. Hers is the example for our own sorely stricken generation.

We shall rebuild our war-wounded London as we rebuilt the immense City area that was devoured in the Great Fire of 1666. We shall restore our blitzed cathedral cities and our provincial towns, great and small. Never before has there been man-directed destruction so dire or vast as that which England and the Continent have suffered at the hands of Nazi Germany, but never was there a resolve more fixed to build again and build better, here and in desolated Europe.

The fallen cities will rise again and the damaged hide their scars and make good their hurts.

Setting Our House in Order

A NEW White Paper and a speech by Mr Churchill have revealed some of the Government's plans for meeting the changed conditions when Germany is finally defeated.

The White Paper deals with the Government policy of trying to ensure the best use of available man-power, and of respecting private wishes where they do not clash with national requirements. A previous White Paper dealt with the release of men and women from the Forces; and this new one is concerned with the adjustment of the people in industry.

Control of Labour, though relaxed in some degree, will still be necessary, partly because of specific problems like the vast amount of building work necessary, but chiefly because the war against Japan will still have to be waged fiercely and our armed forces must be maintained and fully equipped.

First to be Released

Conscription for the armed forces will continue, but only men between 18 and 27 will be liable to call-up, and only those up to 25 if their numbers are sufficient for our needs. Women will no longer be conscripted.

The first industrial workers to be released will be women with household responsibilities, all women over 60, and all men over 65. Women over 50 in most cases will also be released if they wish. There will also be releases, where possible, to enable people to work nearer their homes.

Vast numbers of people from the Forces and from Civil Defence will, on the other hand, be needing civilian employment; and among the other problems to be faced is that of steering workers from one industry no longer important to one where their services are most required.

From all this it is easy to understand why, if we are to avoid serious dislocation in employment and a wasteful use of our man-power resources, control must continue.

Mr Churchill, in a statement to Parliament, stressed that the war with Japan must have first call on our efforts, but we should need to turn more of our resources to providing homes and civilian goods, to restoring our export trade and re-equipping industry. And, to achieve all this, many of the wartime controls over raw materials, industrial capacity, agriculture, food, transport, and so forth, will still be necessary, although there will be a lessening of control whenever it is possible.

TANKS VERSUS SHIPS

For the first time in history a battle has been fought solely between tanks and ships. The tanks were Canadian, the ships German, and the scene of the action was the mouth of the River Maas.

A small group of scouts and tanks had been sent to clear up the little peninsula north of Tholen Island, but when they arrived their commanding officer sighted a German corvette in the ferry port of Zijpe.

It took some time for him to convince H.Q. that there was a German force within range, but at last the order for action was

AMERICA'S YOUNG GIANT

From our Correspondent in America

AMERICA'S young giant is ninety years old. It is the vast region of plains, mighty rivers, and great mountains which is called the North-West and consists mainly of the two Pacific states of Washington and Oregon, Idaho, and part of Montana.

The North-West is a giant in size—as big as France, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, and half of Germany rolled into one. Today it has a population of only 3,600,000, but this is growing rapidly. Only a few months ago Susannah Mercer Gosham, its oldest inhabitant, died—ninety years old—and she remembered the beginnings of it all.

Her father landed little Susannah and her sisters on the spot which is now the city of Seattle. There stood only a cluster of cabins, all the rest was salt water and forests. The men who lived in the cabins had to get out their axes and hew a way through the close-standing ranks of the trees.

Susannah saw the wilderness round her turn into city streets, and wagons turn into streamlined motor-cars. The city grew to be the home of 600,000 people. The harbours deep in the heart of the city received the great ships of the world, and during this war its aircraft factory has turned out the great Flying Fortresses.

The young giant has stretched itself in ninety years, but it is only at the beginning of the development of its real strength. Not very far from the city of Portland the visitor stands awed by, the mighty prospect of the Columbia River, which in power and majesty has carved out for itself a rich valley for farms and homesteads. From its orchards came one-fourth of all America's apples, but millions more can be grown.

The everlasting, life-giving power of the river is here. Twenty years ago the centre of Washington State was desert. Then, across one end of a valley, the Grand Coulee, a wall nearly a mile long, was built. Behind it the river piled up into a gigantic lake thirty miles long and 800 feet deep. That will irrigate the desert sufficiently to house a million people and can provide two and a half million horsepower. This vast hydro-electric power has meant that the North-West is producing one-third of America's vital aluminium supplies. Before the war it produced none at all.

Down on its sea coast the young giant has produced a ship every day or so in the Kaiser shipyard at Portland. Kaiser

could do it because behind him lay the inexhaustible supplies of electric power which the rivers of the North-West provide.

The young giant has almost every known mineral, largely in their primitive state still; it has forests of vast extent, and it knows that its young strength has as yet only been partially tried.

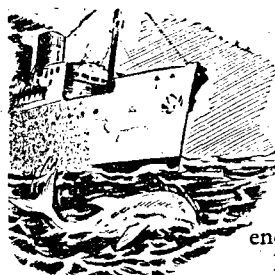
To an English visitor it is a green and pleasant land. Its mountains provide it with a regular rainfall, and from the everlasting snows of the great ranges of the Olympics and the Cascades comes the moisture which gives the valleys their fertility.

A Peaceful Land

On the top of Oregon's state capital of Salem is the burnished bronze figure of a pioneer woodman—a strong, manly figure with his axe ready for action. He is symbolic of the North-West. The pioneer days are not far away, and there is a freshness and vigour about the country which is bracing and challenging. This green land is a peaceful land. It is a land of home and work and production. On its northern border it marches for 500 miles with Canada as friendly neighbour. There are border marks but no sentries and no armaments. The two giants live side by side in peace and happiness, for at heart their people are the same people and want the same life.

ROUND THE WORLD WITH BSA

No. 5

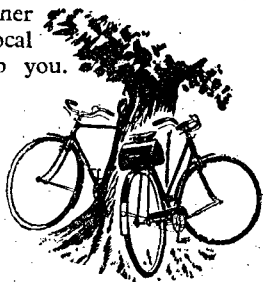


Yes, B.S.A. Bicycles and exciting stories are as popular with boys and girls in New Zealand as they are with you. And many a tale is told at the end of a good day's cycling.

Have you heard of Peloros Jack?

Peloros Jack, the story goes, was a white dolphin. He used to meet steamers and accompany them for several miles along stormy Cook Straits, which divide the two principal islands of New Zealand. Travellers simply called him the pilot-dolphin of the Cook Straits. Maori mythology even sees in Peloros Jack an ancient sea-god, but all travellers insist they saw a real dolphin 15 ft. long! This story is still alive in New Zealand although Peloros Jack disappeared suddenly in April 1912, after having performed his pilot duties for 20 years.

Since the war, you may imagine that B.S.A. Bicycles have disappeared too, but they are only in short supply. If you aren't a lucky B.S.A. owner yet, ask your parents to see your local dealer. He'll do his best to help you.



BSA THE
BICYCLE YOU CAN'T BEAT!

B.S.A. Cycles Ltd., Birmingham, 11

Little and good!

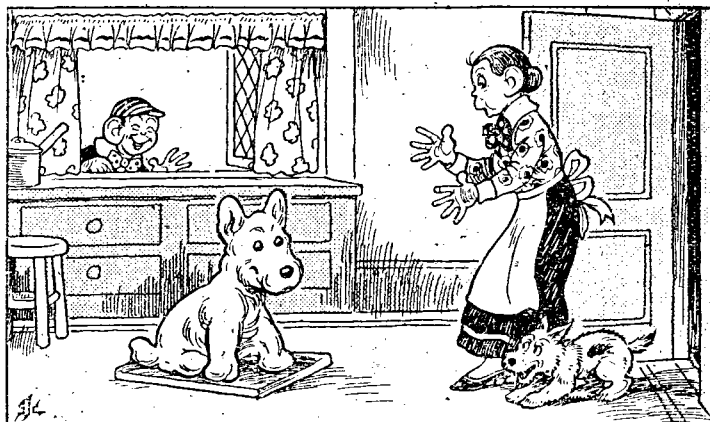


You get a lot
of goodness
out of a little

Hovis

BEST BAKERS BAKE IT
Macclesfield

Jacko's Model Dog



"Now I'll have a bit of fun with Bouncer," said Jacko one afternoon after he had finished a big model of his pet dog. He placed it on the kitchen floor and hopped out of the window, but he didn't have long to wait for his fun. Almost immediately Mother Jacko came in, and when she caught sight of the model she exclaimed, "Out you go at once; we can't have two dogs about the house, Bouncer is more than enough!" Bouncer, crouching at her feet, barked loudly at the unwelcome visitor; then Jacko, unable to keep quiet any longer, bobbed up and gave the game away.

ANTICIPATION

"You look tired, my poor man," said an old lady to a weary-looking tramp on a park seat.

"Yes, ma'am," replied the tramp. "Digging up roads is very hard work."

"Is that what you have been doing?" was the sympathetic comment.

"Well, no, ma'am, not yet, but I start tomorrow."

The Brawny Scot

On the average, the Scotsman is over an inch taller than the Englishman, nearly an inch taller than the Irishman, and over two inches taller than the Welshman.

In weight, the Irishman is the lightest, the Englishman next, then the Welshman, with the Scotsman the heaviest, tipping the scale at nearly twelve stone.

The Children's Hour

Here are details of the BBC broadcasts for Wednesday, November 29, to Tuesday, December 5.

WEDNESDAY, 5.20 Mail Day, another Australian Bush Tale by John Ein, told by Mac; followed by Gramophone Records; and Cactoblastus, the true story of the conquest of the Prickly Pear.

THURSDAY, 5.20 St Andrew's Day—Scottish Poetry, Songs, and Dance Tunes.

FRIDAY, 5.20 Maddy Alone: the sequel to The Swish of the Curtain by Pamela Brown, produced by John Keir Cross. Part 3—Maddy's Premiere.

SATURDAY, 5.20 Christmas Novelties—a talk by Kenneth Sparrow;

followed by Piano Solos by Wendy Taunton. 5.45 Soccer, by F. N. S. Creek, the Sports Coach.

SUNDAY, 5.20 The Boyhood of Robert Louis Stevenson, who died in Samoa fifty years ago today. Produced by Kathleen Garscaden. 5.50 Uncle Mac's Christmas Appeal for Invalid and Cripple Children.

MONDAY, 5.20 Libens and the Three Princes, a fairy tale from the Czech, by Marie Burg, told by Elizabeth; followed by Music at Random, a talk about Brahms by Helen Henschel and the Zoo Man.

TUESDAY, 5.30 Down at the Mains, by R. Gordon MacCallum—Teenie prepares for Christmas.



Mother! Child's Best Laxative is 'California Syrup of Figs'

Children love the pleasant taste of 'California Syrup of Figs,' and gladly take it even when bilious, feverish, sick or constipated. This laxative regulates the tender little bowels easily and safely. It sweetens the stomach and moves the bowels without cramping or over-acting.

Millions of mothers depend upon this gentle, harmless laxative.

Tell your chemist you want 'California Syrup of Figs,' which has full directions for babies and children of all ages.

Obtainable everywhere at 1/4 and 2/6.

The BRAN TUB

Taking No Risks

SMILED a Pike to a Troutlet, "My dear, These sharp teeth you've no reason to fear." As it made for the weed, Cried the Troutlet, "Indeed? Yet I'll somehow feel safer in here!"

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

The Alert Sounds in Rabbit Land. Don was enjoying the antics of the rabbits in the big meadow. Overhead a kestrel slid into view. With a flash of white tails the rabbits vanished.

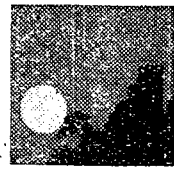
"Just as though they'd received a signal," Don told Farmer Gray.

"Exactly what happened," answered the farmer.

"Rabbits have sentries posted. At the approach of danger, the sentry thumps the ground with his paws. Rabbits hearing this sound bolt at once, and as soon as a rabbit runs the white part of his tail can plainly be seen. This is a recognised danger signal among rabbits who, seeing it, dash for safety."

Other Worlds

In the evening Venus is in the south-west, and Saturn and Uranus are in the south-east. In the morning Jupiter is in the south-east and Saturn is in the south-west. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, December 1.



EQUALLY CHOICE

"Excuse me, sir, what soup did you have—tomato or ox-tail?" asked the waiter as he was making out the bill.

"Well, it tasted like soap," replied the diner.

"Ah, then, it must have been ox-tail, sir! The tomato tastes oily."

Coughing kept him awake until—



instant relief and sound sleep followed a dose of 'Pineate' Honey Cough Syrup. This splendid remedy gets to grips with rasping, tearing coughs, eases chest, throat and lungs, soothes and heals inflamed air passages, and hastens recovery. Only half a teaspoonful of 'Pineate' Honey Cough Syrup will check a cough immediately. 1/9 including Purchase Tax. Good for grown-ups too!

'Pineate'
HONEY
COUGH-SYRUP

Nature News

Now is the time when many gulls come inland, particularly up rivers, and even the Kittiwake, which is a real open-sea bird, may be driven inshore, though not inland, by a December storm. It can easily be recognised by its short black legs and by the cry from which it takes its name.

The dark green nettles of the Corsican pine and the broad umbrella-shaped green top of the stone pine are welcome patches of colour among the bare, leafless trees.

What December Means

Like the three months that go before it, December is wrongly named, for the word implies that it is the tenth instead of the twelfth month.

We need not trouble very much, however, about its Latin origin, for to us it is the month of Father Christmas, who turns its dark, chilly weeks into a time of good cheer.

HONOURS EVEN

"As fuel," bragged the Lump of Coal,

"You simply are not in it. I last and give a cheerful glow—You blaze out in a minute."

"Of your importance," said the Log,

"You take a view too rosy. Now in wartime while you're scarce,

Who helps to keep folks cosy?"

A WORD CATCH

Ask someone if he thinks he is good at pronouncing words and he will probably say that he is providing these are not too difficult. Then say you will suggest quite a short word to him, which everybody knows, and yet you are sure he will not be able to pronounce right.

Your friend is almost certain to take up the challenge. Then you tell him the word is Wrong which he cannot pronounce right.

Now try him again by asking him to spell need in the sense of needing bread. He is almost sure to spell it Knead. You will then point out to him that you knead dough, but need bread.

Every One a River

SOME of the oddest names are those given to our little streams. Here are several:

Alt	Gad	Lud	Quin
Biss	Hems	Lyn	Quy
Brun	Hiz	Maun	Rib
Chet	Int	Noe	Tas
Ding	Kelk	Ock	Ter
Dub	Kym	Og	Ver
Foss	Len	Penk	Wid
Fyn	Lew	Pow	Yar

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Beheading
Drink, rink, ink

A Mystery Sum
Ten score

COVER	TAP
UNIT	CATO
BUS	ARROW
STAGE	ME
MAN	ISSA
AD	ALTAR
PROSE	LOG
LAW	PATE
EW	MADAM

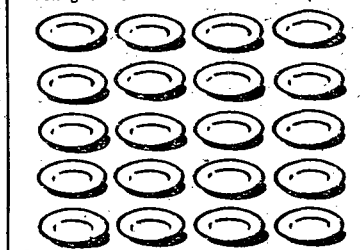
WE MUST NOT LET THE CHILDREN DOWN

Despite terrific difficulties Christmas is coming to the East End. Each of our little ones will receive a toy or a book, and no less than 7 parties have been arranged over the festive season in Stepney. Bethnal Green and Limehouse, three of the most devastated districts in East London. Will you give them a share of happiness?

The Rev. RONALD F. W. JOLLOM, Supt., THE EAST END MISSION (Founded 1885), Bromley Street, Commercial Road, Stepney, E.1.



CONJURERS can bring rabbits out of hats, but that is nothing like so marvellous as the wonderful things the National Children's Home can do. It turns sorrow into happiness—and it can turn the gifts of your friends into Christmas dinners for its big family. Please use this advertisement as a collecting sheet and send it and the result to the address given. Each gift should be entered on a plate.



NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOME
Highbury Park, London, N.5

ROYAL ASSOCIATION

THE DEAF AND DUMB

which maintain Churches and Institutions for the Deaf and Dumb is ministering to their spiritual, social, and material needs.

★ Please help by a Christmas gift to
GRAHAM W. SIMES, Secretary,
413, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.1

51/103



Many children, rescued from a life of ill-treatment and neglect, are looking forward to Christmas for the first time in their lives. There are still others not so fortunate—your Christmas gift will help us to help them!

President: H.R.H. PRINCESS ELIZABETH.

N.S.P.C.C.
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